REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-29 were pending in the present application with claims 16-18 and 27-29 being withdrawn from consideration. By way of this reply, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 15 have been amended and claims 2, 3, and 16-29 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 30-44 have been added by way of this reply. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-15, and 30-44 are now pending in the present application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 has been amended by way of this reply. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to require a job accepting means for accepting a print job from a plurality of print job data sent as a series of reception data via a RAW-mode physical channel from said host machine, and extracting means that extracts the print job data on a job-unit basis from the series of reception data. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in now-cancelled claims 2 and 3 of the present application and on page 13, lines 6-13 of the present application. Further, claims 4, 5, 7, and 15 have been amended to be consistent with amendments made to claim 1 and to remove multiple dependencies. New claims 30-44 have been added in connection with the removal of the multiple dependencies. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Objection(s)

Claims 7 and 15 are objected to for being in improper form. Claims 7 and 15 have been amended in this reply in view of this rejection. Specifically, claims 7 and 15 have been amended to remove improper multiple dependencies. Accordingly, claims 7 and 15 are no longer in improper form, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1, 8-14, and 19-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,181,436 issued to Kurachi (hereinafter "Kurachi"). Claims 19-26 have been cancelled by way of this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot with respect to claims 19-26. Independent claim 1 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a printer to manage a plurality of print jobs according to print job identifying information. As discussed with reference to Figure 2 of the Specification, a printer **1** in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention receives print job data in RAW mode through a parallel interface **204'** based on application data (*see* Specification, page 9, line 13 – page 10, line 2). The parallel interface **204'** accepts data transmitted from a host machine **2** and forwards it to a print job extracting section **205**. The print job extracting section **205** extracts print job data on a job-unit basis from a series of data sent from the parallel interface **204'** (*see* Specification, page 10, lines 3-13).

Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 requires a job accepting means for accepting a print job from a plurality of print job data sent as a series of reception data via a RAW-mode physical channel from said host machine, and extracting means that extracts the

print job data on a job-unit basis from the series of reception data. Amended independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations of dependent claims 2 and 3 that are admittedly not shown by Kurachi. Moreover, Kurachi fails to show or suggest at least the above limitations of the present invention.

In contrast to the present invention, Kurachi is directed to a print managing system connecting a printing apparatus to a plurality of client apparatuses *via a network* (*see* Kurachi, abstract). Kurachi discloses a print data receiving device **3a** that receives print data through a network **4** (not a RAW-mode physical channel) from a client apparatus (*e.g.*, **1**) (*see* Kurachi, col. 9, lines 19-23). Kurachi teaches that the client **1** generates print data in a print data generating device **1a** based on an application program. As described by Kurachi, the print data "is described by using codes or a language which the printing [sic] **3** can recognize, such as a page description language" (see Kurachi, col. 8, lines 42-47). Kurachi teaches that a rough image of a page to be printed can be displayed from among a plurality of pages (*see* Kurachi, col. 11, lines 19-35). It would be clear to one skilled in the art that this information is sent on a job-unit basis. However, Kurachi is totally silent with respect to extracting print job data from transmitted reception data as required by the claimed invention. As devices connected via a network interface receive print jobs on a job-unit basis (*not* as a series of data), it is not possible for the printer of Kurachi to extract print job data from a series of reception data. Kurachi is totally silent with respect to transmitting data via a RAW-mode physical channel, and is further silent with respect to extracting print job data on a job-unit basis from a series of reception data transmitted on the RAW-mode physical channel.

In view of the above, Kurachi fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over

Kurachi. Dependent claims 8-14 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 2-4

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kurachi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,148,346 issued to Hanson (hereinafter "Hanson"). Dependent claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled by way of this reply. Thus, the rejection is now moot with respect to claims 2 and 3. Independent claim 1 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to amended claim 4, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Kurachi fails to show or suggest at least the limitations of the present invention discussed above. Hanson fails to show or suggest that which Kurachi lacks. Hanson, in contrast to the present invention, is directed to a device driver for a communication system between various devices and operating systems across various networking systems (*see* Hanson, abstract). Hanson teaches that peripherals may be connected locally or remotely to a PC **23**, and that a dynamic device driver **42** includes an operating system ("OS") specific device driver portion **33** and an OS independent device driver portion **34**, written in the Java language (*see* Hanson, col. 4, line 10 – col. 5, line 12). It would be clear to one skilled in the art that Hanson is directed to an OS-level driver system. Hanson does not show or suggest transmitting data via a RAW-mode physical channel. Further, Hanson does not show or suggest extracting print job data on a job-unit basis from a series of reception data transmitted on the RAW-mode physical channel, as required by the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Kurachi and Hanson, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Kurachi and Hanson. Dependent claim 4 is allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kurachi and Hanson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,747 issued to Reilly *et al.* (hereinafter "Reilly"). Independent claim 1 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Kurachi and Hanson fail to show or suggest at least the limitations of the present invention discussed above. Reilly fails to show or suggest that which Kurachi and Hanson lack. In contrast to the present invention, Reilly is directed to an architecture for a network printing system that allows enhanced communications between host computers and a printer connected to a network (*see* Reilly, Abstract). Reilly discloses an imaging device protocol ("IDP") emulator **40** that allows IDP print jobs to be queued with non-IDP print jobs (*see* Reilly, col. 4, line 60 – col. 5, line 6). This merely allows a wide variety of devices to interface with a printer. However, Reilly does not show or suggest transmitting data via a RAW-mode physical channel. Further, Reilly does not show or suggest extracting print job data on a job-unit basis from a series of reception data transmitted on the RAW-mode physical channel, as required by the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Kurachi, Hanson, and Reilly, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent

claim 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Kurachi, Hanson, and Reilly. Dependent claims 5 and 6 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783/018001).

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